

Heritage Series - #1 – “What is Your Inheritance?”

Read Gen. 24:34 – 36

**Thesis:** We who are saved have a wonderful inheritance – All the precious, wonderful, valuable, eternal treasures of God that He has laid up for us in Heaven are our inheritance.

\* Pastor's lessons on Baptist Distinctives – 8 , beliefs/practices common among Baptist churches/ What we believe that has been passed down by our spiritual forefathers to Baptist churches –

\* Why do we “do church” the way we do? Why do we hold to the following?

*1. Biblical authority – The Bible is the final authority for the church, not tradition, or the writings of men.*

*2. Autonomy of the local church – Every local church governs its own affairs under the Headship of Christ.*

*3. Priesthood of the believer – Every believer is equal before God and has no need of an earthly priest since the Lord Jesus Christ is our Great High Priest.*

*4. Two ordinances - The local church has no sacraments, but observes believers' baptism and the Lord's supper as ordinances.*

*5. Independent soul liberty – We hold that every believer is to obey God for himself, and that he is ultimately accountable to God alone.*

*6. Saved church membership – We hold that the local church is made up only of those whose sins are forgiven through faith in Christ.*

*7. Two offices – We hold that there are only two offices in the church, pastors (who are also called elders and bishops) and deacons*

*8. Separation of church and state – We hold that the church and the state are never to be joined together, and that the church is subject to Christ, not to the state. Neither does the church rule over the state.*

**These prompted me to speak on the inheritance that belongs to every child of God/**

**I. God has given to every one of His children a wonderful inheritance.**

**See the following verses:**

**A. We are the heirs of God.**

**Romans 8:14-17 (KJV)** For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God. For ye have not received the spirit of bondage again to fear; but ye have received the Spirit of adoption, whereby we cry, Abba, Father. The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God: **And if children, then heirs; heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ;** if so be that we suffer with *him*, that we may be also glorified together.

**B. Because we are saved.**

**Titus 3:4-7 (KJV)** But after that the kindness and love of God our Saviour toward man appeared, Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us, by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost; Which he shed on us abundantly through Jesus Christ our Saviour; **That being justified by his grace, we should be made heirs according to the hope of eternal life.**

**C. Our full inheritance is in Heaven -**

**Hebrews 1:14 (KJV)** Are they not all ministering spirits, sent forth to minister for them who shall be heirs of salvation?

**D. Those who live by faith (I John 5:5) will have a greater inheritance in Heaven**

- **Revelation 21:7 (KJV)** He that overcometh shall inherit all things; and I will be his God, and he shall be my son.

## II. So our attention is directed to the word "inheritance"

**Definition of inheritance:** Three important words, 1) An heir, one who 2) inherits, is a person who is entitled by law to receive and enjoy the property of an ancestor after their death, most often he is a child of the ancestor. **Genesis 15:4 (KJV)** And, behold, the word of the LORD *came* unto him, saying, **This shall not be thine heir; but he that shall come forth out of thine own bowels shall be thine heir.**

- **Earthly things such as lands, houses, treasures, kingdoms, but in the Bible, also spiritual treasures, blessings, eternal blessedness of dwelling with God in Heaven. This entire scenario is also called our 3) heritage.**

**\*A large part of Jewish life – OT references and examples –** The land of Canaan. Abraham's family were his heirs– The nation of Israel and their rights to his possessions/land and seed – This is what Abraham's servant was promising to Rebecca, that she would share in Isaac's inheritance from his father Abraham, so he gave her an earnest of her inheritance (smaller gifts as samples of her full inheritance.)

**\*A large part of our Christian life – NO promise of earthly wealth or prosperity is given by God for this life!!!!** Rather ALL our inheritance in this life has to do with spiritual blessings – both in this life and in Heaven – **Beware of those who teach that God has to give you good health, lots of money, and that life will be easy for you.**

- **Ephesians 1:3 (KJV)** Blessed *be* the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly *places* in Christ:

- **Ephesians 1:14 (KJV)** In whom also we have obtained an inheritance, being predestinated according to the purpose of him who worketh all things after the counsel of his own will:

**We belong to God's family and have a wonderful heritage – Our family tree begins with our Father, God, who promises to us an eternal inheritance. He then distributes samples of it to us through Old Testament prophets, and in the New Testament, through Christ and the apostles. plus all those who have passed on to us the riches of our inheritance. Our spiritual fathers (and mothers) and brothers and sisters teach us how to lay hold on the riches of God's grace.**

"How does this inheritance come down to us? We have the right ancestors who brought us into the family of God through the new birth. They are our forefathers, our ancestors. It is God's way to use men to preach to sinners the gospel in order to win them to Christ so that they become heirs of God. The great commission: **Acts 26:16-18 (KJV)** Delivering thee from the people, and *from* the Gentiles, unto whom now I send thee, To open their eyes, and to turn *them* from darkness to light, and *from* the power of Satan unto God, **that they may receive forgiveness of sins, and inheritance among them which are sanctified by faith that is in me.**

And then these who have won us to Christ care for us as babes in Christ, nurturing, feeding, correcting, guiding, training us so that we can do the same for others.

- **Example: Paul and Timothy –**

- **Note the word "begotten" in 1Co 4:15** For though ye have ten thousand

instructors in Christ, yet *have ye not many fathers*: for in Christ Jesus **I have begotten you through the gospel.**

**Phm 10** I beseech thee for **my son Onesimus**, whom I have **begotten** in my bonds:

**- And the word "son"**

**1Co 4:17** For this cause have I sent unto you Timotheus, who is **my beloved son**, and faithful in the Lord, **who shall bring you into remembrance of my ways which be in Christ, as I teach every where in every church.**

**Php 2:22** But ye know the proof of him, that, **as a son with the father, he hath served with me in the gospel.**

**1Ti 1:2** Unto Timothy, **my own son in the faith**: Grace, mercy, *and* peace, from God our Father and Jesus Christ our Lord.

**1Ti 1:18** This charge I commit unto thee, **son Timothy**, according to the prophecies which went before on thee, that thou by them mightest war a good warfare;

**2Ti 1:2** To Timothy, **my dearly beloved son**: Grace, mercy, *and* peace, from God the Father and Christ Jesus our Lord.

**2Ti 2:1** Thou therefore, **my son**, be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus.

**Tit 1:4** To Titus, **mine own son after the common faith**: Grace, mercy, *and* peace, from God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ our Saviour.

**Phm 10** I beseech thee for **my son Onesimus**, whom I have begotten in my bonds:

**1Pe 5:13** The church that is at Babylon, elected together with you, saluteth you; and so doth **Marcus my son.**

**Note** how Paul and Peter call them their sons whom they had led to faith in Christ. They had given them the gospel which God used to make them born again.

**- Think it over, God has given you the Holy Spirit, who is the earnest of your salvation. Ephesians 1:11ff** "...ye were sealed with that holy Spirit of promise, Which is the earnest of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession, *It is a pledge or token given as the assurance of the fulfillment of a bargain or promise. If the agreement be about wages, then a part of the wages is advanced; if it be about land, then a clod given to the purchaser or beneficiary may stand as the pledge of final and complete conveyance of the property. In the spiritual sense, as used in the passages above named, the reference is to the work of the Spirit of God in our hearts being a token and pledge of a perfect redemption and a heavenly inheritance.*

Who won you to Christ? Who disciplined you? Who nurtured you? Who fed you from the Word? Who prayed for you? Who comforted you in trials? These are samples of Heavenly blessings which God has brought to you through your spiritual ancestors.

- These people are your forefathers. It is what Paul refers to in 2 Timothy 2:1-2 (KJV) Thou therefore, **my son**, be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus. And the things that thou hast heard of me among many witnesses, the same commit thou to faithful men, who shall be able to teach others also.

This is a good example of our spiritual heritage. God is my Father and has handed out to all His children lesser riches, "pieces of jewelry" (as Eliezer did to Rebecca and her family in Gen. 24) that show how great our inheritance is going to be in Heaven.

III. Our inheritance has come down to us through our spiritual ancestors: We often think of those whom God has used greatly in our lives, our pastors, missionaries, evangelists, even some whom we never met.

The Anabaptists, we believe were among the earliest of our spiritual forefathers. Surprisingly, one of the strongest historical evidences comes from Cardinal Hosius' quotes in his Council of Trent paper. Hosius was a Polish Roman Catholic who became prince-bishop of Warmia (northern Poland) in 1551, rose to cardinal in 1561, and was one of five (papal legates) officers who presided over (the third period of) the Council of Trent from 1561 to 1563.

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*Cardinal Hosius, one of the Pope's Presidents at the Council of Trent, who said thus of them (the Anabaptists): "If the truth of religion were to be judged of, by the readiness and cheerfulness which a man of any sect shows in suffering, then the opinion and persuasion of no sect can be truer or surer than that of the Anabaptists; since there have been none for these twelve hundred years past, that have been more grievously punished, or that have more cheerfully and steadfastly undergone, and even offered themselves to the most cruel sorts of punishments, than these people." <sup>2</sup> "The Anabaptists are a pernicious sect; of which kind the Waldensian Brethren seem also to have been. Concerning whom it appears, that not very long ago they rebaptized persons; though some of them lately, as they testify in their apology, have ceased to repeat baptism. Certain it is, however, that in many things they agree with the Anabaptists. . . . Nor is this heresy a modern thing; for it existed in the time of Augustine." <sup>3</sup>*

*There is another third sect more perilous, the which, because it baptizeth again those which were lawfully baptized of the Catholics, is called the sect of the Anabaptists: of which sort the brotherhood called, Waldenses, seemed to be,*

*And this sect truly of the Anabaptists, is divided into many sections. Neither did this heresy begin yesterday, or the day before, for it reigned also in saint Augustine's time. And as the most part of all other heresies be, so was this in the beginning divided into many other parts. For some were called Donatists, other Rogatists, other Maximianists, other Circenses, who at length were converted from the sect of the Donatists (for their name was more famous than the rest)*

We have seen:

I. The terms of our Father's Will -

A. All of His children are included in His will -

Romans 8 - The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God: And if children, then heirs; heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ;

**B. This is a vital part of our message to lost men – The great commission - Acts 26:16-18 (KJV)** Delivering thee from the people, and *from* the Gentiles, unto whom now I send thee, To open their eyes, *and* to turn *them* from darkness to light, and *from* the power of Satan unto God, **that they may receive forgiveness of sins, and inheritance among them which are sanctified by faith that is in me.**

**C. We have an earnest of our inheritance that is given to us in this life before we get to Heaven, an allowance given from our Father before we come into our full inheritance. Ephesians 1:11ff** “...ye were sealed with that holy Spirit of promise, **Which is the earnest of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession, *It is a pledge or token given as the assurance of the fulfillment of a bargain or promise. If the agreement be about wages, then a part of the wages is advanced; if it be about land, then a clod given to the purchaser or beneficiary may stand as the pledge of final and complete conveyance of the property. In the spiritual sense, as used in the passages above named, the reference is to the work of the Spirit of God in our hearts being a token and pledge of a perfect redemption and a heavenly inheritance.***

**D. Lost people have the wrong father, the Devil, and are in the wrong family line and do not receive any of our inheritance from our Father.**

**Ephesians 5:2-8 (KJV)** And walk in love, as Christ also hath loved us, and hath given himself for us an offering and a sacrifice to God for a sweetsmelling savour. But fornication, and all uncleanness, or covetousness, let it not be once named among you, as becometh saints; Neither filthiness, nor foolish talking, nor jesting, which are not convenient: but rather giving of thanks. **For this ye know, that no whoremonger, nor unclean person, nor covetous man, who is an idolater, hath any inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and of God.** Let no man deceive you with vain words: for because of these things cometh the wrath of God upon the children of disobedience. Be not ye therefore partakers with them. For ye were sometimes darkness, but now *are ye* light in the Lord: walk as children of light:

#### Applications:

- We who know the Lord Jesus Christ as our Lord and Saviour are sent by Him to tell every man that He invites you into His family so that you share in the inheritance. When you believe on the Lord Jesus Christ you are born into His family and become an heir of God.
- Not only so, but you begin to enjoy the allowance that is given to all the heirs of God, the fellowship we enjoy, the comfort of the Holy Spirit of God, answers to prayer, glorious truths from the Bible.
- Be sure you are saved, that you have been born again into the family of God, that He is your Father. If you are saved, then you are an heir of God and have a wonderful inheritance laid up for you.